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Letter dated 19 April 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the decision adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its 40th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 6 October 2005. I also refer to Security Council resolution 1633 (2005), of 21 October 2005, pursuant to which an International Working Group was established to assist the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in the implementation of its programme and to consolidate and strengthen the existing follow-up mechanisms.

In this regard, I am forwarding the text of the communiqué issued by the International Working Group at the conclusion of its 14th ministerial meeting, held in Abidjan on 13 April 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this communiqué to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Final communiqué of the 14th ministerial meeting of the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire

Abidjan, 13 April 2007

1. The 14th ministerial meeting of the International Working Group on Côte d'Ivoire was held in Abidjan on 13 April 2007, under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ghana, and Mr. Abou Moussa, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). In attendance were the High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, and the representatives of Benin, Burkina Faso, France, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, ECOWAS, the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization of the Francophonie, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

2. The Group heard a briefing by the Prime Minister, Mr. Guillaume Soro, focusing on the new philosophy of compromise that allowed the successful conclusion of the direct dialogue and the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Accord. The Prime Minister also highlighted the initial measures taken and envisaged by the signatories to the Accord, including the forming of a new Government, in accordance with the schedule of implementation. The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction at the measures put in place to ensure the successful implementation of the key issues of the Accord, namely, identification, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the preparations for elections, and the integration of the armed forces. The Prime Minister invited the international community to fully support the process for resolving the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The Group congratulated the Prime Minister on his appointment and encouraged the Government to pursue its action with a view to creating the necessary conditions for the holding of credible elections.

3. The Group also heard a statement by the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on the purpose of the technical assessment mission in Côte d'Ivoire led by him. Furthermore, the Group heard statements by the High Representative for the elections on the electoral process, as well as by the Commanders of the impartial forces, who highlighted the measures taken with a view to supporting the implementation of the military and security provisions of the Ouagadougou Political Accord, including the signing of the quadripartite agreement abolishing the Zone of Confidence. The Commanders of the impartial forces also reaffirmed their readiness to continue their peace and security mission in Côte d'Ivoire and to contribute to the strengthening of confidence among all concerned Ivorian parties.

4. The Group welcomes the determination of the Ivorian parties to take full ownership of the peace process, and urges them to fulfil their commitments in good faith. Moreover, the Group reaffirms the readiness of the international community to accompany and support efforts to implement the Ouagadougou Political Accord.

5. In the light of the Ouagadougou Accord and in order to ensure a smooth coordination of efforts by national actors and their international partners, in particular the United Nations, the Group has requested its two co-chairs to undertake consultations with the relevant authorities of ECOWAS and the African Union on the role of the International Working Group, and to make recommendations thereon to the Security Council.